



Media Release

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Chuck Clark of Metter, Georgia Is State's 2010 Women in Business Champion of the Year *--Actively Supports Women-Owned Businesses in the Area--*

Charles K. Clark, Executive Director of the Candler County Industrial Authority (CCIA) has been selected the 2010 Women in Business Champion of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Clark will receive his award from Terri Denison, SBA Georgia District Director, at an Atlanta luncheon on May 5 that is hosted by the Georgia Lenders Quality Circle, a group of active SBA lenders. He was nominated for his statewide award by the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Georgia Southern University.

Clark assumed his industrial development position six year years ago in Metter after a career as an officer in both the regular Army and reserves. His military service included a Bronze Star Award for his participation in the Desert Storm conflict. For more than 20 years, he also worked in hospital administration and marketing in Arizona, Colorado and Georgia.

When he took his development position, Clark was charged with recruiting larger industries to Metter. However, he quickly realized that small business was another component of economic development that needed and deserved just as much, if not more, attention.

One of his first moves as head of the Industrial Authority was to forge a strong alliance with the SBDC in nearby Statesboro. New businesses, more than half of them women-owned, have been created in Metter in recent years with the consulting assistance of the SBDC. In recent years, CCIA and the SBDC have conducted a series of four-part seminars for these entrepreneurs.

Last year, Clark organized and hosted a training workshop for local entrepreneurs on "Survival Tips for Tough Economic Times." Over 40 business owners attended, the majority of which were women.

He also coordinated a "First Saturday" program in Metter for downtown merchants and visited each woman-owned business in person to inform them of the event and encouraged their participation.

In an effort to support all local small businesses, Clark chaired the "Entrepreneur Friendly Community" committee for Candler County. He spent many hours with the Georgia Department of Economic Development staff working towards this state designation which the county received in early

2009. He also works closely on development issues with the Middle Coastal Unified Development Authority and the Georgia Rural Economic Development Center at East Georgia College in Swainsboro.

To help publicized local progress, Clark writes feature articles for the local newspapers highlighting the accomplishments of women-owned small businesses in the Metter area.

Clark was born into a family of educators in 1947 in the small town of Raymond, Mississippi. He graduated as the Salutatorian of his high school class in 1965. As a Boy Scout, he received both his Eagle Award and the God and Country Award. He earned a B.A. Degree in History from Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss. His higher education includes a Masters Degree in Business from Arizona State University, and a Masters Degree in History from the University of Virginia.

As a member of the Rotary Club, he has maintained a perfect attendance record for his entire tenure with the club.

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